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cial government is the work of the irrigation companies, which number nearly three hundred in the province; most of them, of course, control only a few miles of pipe lines and have a low capitalization. The largest irrigation project in Canada is at Bassano, Alberta, and in it the Canadian Pacific Railway has already invested \$10,000,000. Whatever the dimensions of the company, however, the fact that its revenues depend upon a supply of water from the hills and the additional fact that stripping the hills of timber growth ruins the water supply, brings to the side of forest protection a very strong influence.

In the interior of British Columbia, from which the accompanying photographs were taken, irrigation has reached a high degree of perfection. Barren lands were bought up by companies at a few dollars an acre and resold at a thousand dollars an acre. Those who have bought at these prices have in numbers of cases made large profits from fruit cultivation. The growth of fruit trees and of the fruit is very rapid because of the steady supply of moisture, although the quality of the product is regarded by many as not quite equal to that of non-irrigated lands.

#### SCIENTIFIC ITEMS

DR. CHARLES HORACE MAYO, of Rochester, Minn., was elected president of the American Medical Association at the recent Detroit meeting. Dr. William J. Mayo, his brother, was president in 1906.—Dr. Henry M. Howe, emeritus professor of metallurgy in Columbia University, has been appointed honorary vice-president of the Iron and Steel Institute of Great Britain.—At a meeting of the Texas chapter of the Society of the Sigma Xi, on June 5,

Dr. Frederic W. Simonds, professor of geology in the University of Texas, was elected president for the year. Dr. Simonds was one of the first five graduate students elected to membership in the Cornell chapter.

THE International Health Commission of the Rockefeller Foundation, sent to Brazil to make a general medical survey of the southern part of the country, has returned. The commission consisted of Professor Richard M. Pearce, of the University of Pennsylvania, chairman; Major Bailey K. Ashford, of the U. S. Medical Corps; Dr. John A. Ferrell, of the International Health Commission, and a secretary. They were absent for about four months and the work included a study of the general educational system in Brazil, the medical schools, hospitals and dispensaries, and public health organization.—The Carnegie Institution expedition to Tobago, British West Indies, was exceptionally successful. The southwestern end of Tobago consists of elevated coral-bearing lime-stones and the coast from Milford Bay northward is flanked by a modern coral reef. Dr. Hubert Lyman Clark, of Harvard University, collected 73 species of echinoderms in this region, and of these Dr. Th. Mortensen, of Copenhagen University, reared 10 throughout their larval stages; among them a crinoid *Tropiometra* which was abundant over the shallow reef-flats. Dr. A. G. Mayer studied the Siphonophores, the pelagic life being abundant, due to the fact that the water of the great equatorial drift of the Atlantic strikes immediately upon the coast of Tobago. The coastal waters of Tobago are those of the clear blue tropical ocean, for the island lies to the northward of the muddy shores of Trinidad.